

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 AF-10 NSCE-00
INRE-00 SSO-00 /052 W
-----000938 131947Z /14-S

O R 131724Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1730
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 3981

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: HANDLING THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE

1. THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON
WALVIS BAY AGREED TO WITH SWAPO IN LUANDA (STATE 080042) WILL
ALMOST CERTAINLY EVOKE A STRONG SAG REACTION WHEN IT BECOMES
KNOW. THE EXACT SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSE IS UNPREDICTABLE. AT
A MINIMUM, THE SAG WILL PROBABLY DECLARE THAT IT CONSIDERS
THE RESOLUTION NON-BINDING AND WILL REITERATE THAT IT HAS
ACCEPTED THE WESTERN FIVE'S PROPOSAL ON NAMIBIA WITH THE
CONDITION THAT THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY WAS NOT INCLUDED.
THE SAG MIGHT EVEN CONSIDER RELEASING THAT PORTION OF ITS
EXCHANGE EARLIER IN THE YEAR WITH THE CG ON THE SUBJECT
OF WALVIS BAY. CONCEIVABLY, VORSTER COULD CHOOSE TO
MAKE A MAJOR ISSUE OF WESTERN SUPPORT FOR THE RESOLUTION
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AND, CHARGING BAD FAITH ON THE PART OF THE WEST, HOLD UP
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL. THE SAG MIGHT EXPECT
THAT A SHOW OF OBSTINANCY WOULD UNDERSCORE ITS POSITION
ON WALVIS BAY AND POSSIBLY ELLICIT SOME AMELIORATING
STATEMENTS OR ACTIONS.

2. THERE IS A CHANCE THAT THE SAG RESPONSE WILL BE

SHAPED IN PART BY THE NATURE OF OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH IT ON THE SUBJECT AS WELL AS BY THE NATURE OF WESTERN STATEMENTS ON WALVIS BAY DURING THE DEBATE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, PROVIDED WE CAN GIVE SOME ADVANCE INDICATION OF WHAT OUR POSITION WILL BE.

3. ASSUMING THAT THE GIST IF NOT THE ACTUAL TEXT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION WILL BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, WE BELIEVE THIS ADDS FURTHER URGENCY FOR PROCEEDING WITH THE SETTLEMENT PACKAGE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

4. IN THE MEANTIME, WE RECOMMEND TWO SEPARATE APPROACHES TO THE SAG. THE FIRST COULD BE IN THE FORM OF A BRIEFING OF WHAT TOOK PLACE AT LUANDA AND THE CG'S PLANS FOR GOING TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. IN THE COURSE OF THIS APPROACH, WHICH SHOULD BE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, WE SHOULD INFORM THE SAG THAT:

--DURING THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE WESTERN PROPOSAL A RESOLUTION IS LIKELY TO BE PRESENTED ON WALVIS BAY.

--THE WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION ON THE BASIS OF THEIR BELIEF THAT FOR FUNDAMENTAL ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND OTHER REASONS, WALVIS BAY SHOULD BE A PART OF NAMIBIA AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH
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AFRICA AND INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA TO THIS END.

--THIS RESOLUTION WILL NOT BE PART OF THE SETTLEMENT PACKAGE NOR WILL WALVIS BAY BE INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL EXCEPT FOR THE UNDERSTANDING THAT SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN WALVIS BAY WILL NOT BE INCREASED DURING THE PERIOD BEFORE INDEPENDENCE AND THAT NAMIBIANS IN WALVIS BAY WILL BE ALLOWED TO VOTE.

--THE WESTERN COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO TAKE NO POSITION ON THE CONFLICTING LEGAL CLAIMS TO WALVIS BAY, AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION WILL NOT ALTER THIS STAND.

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-----001010 131948Z /14

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1731

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PRETORIA 3981

5. WE SHOULD INFORM THE SAG THAT THE WESTERN COUNTRIES
WILL ALSO MAKE THE ABOVE POSITIONS KNOWN IN THE COURSE
OF THE DEBATE ON THE WALVIS BAY RESOLUTION. IT COULD
BE NOTED THAT THESE POSITION COVER THE FOUR POINTS
WHICH THE CONTACT GROUP INFORMED THE SAG LAST FEBRUARY
THE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS WOULD MAKE IN THE SECURITY COUN-
CIL DEBATE. WHEN CHALLENGED WHY WE WOULD GO BEYOND THE
FOUR POINTS WE COULD REPLY THAT:

--SUPPORT FOR THE RESOLUTION IS CONSISTENT WITH THE
FOUR POINTS WE DISCUSSED WITH THE SAG IN FEBRUARY
AS WELL AS OUR OTHER STATEMENTS CONCERNING THIS
SUBJECT.

--OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SAG ON THE WALVIS BAY
ISSUE DID NOT EXCLUDE OUR TAKING A POSITION IN
PRINCIPLE ON WHAT THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE ENCLAVE
SHOULD BE.

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--THE RESOLUTION REFLECTS A VIEW HELD NOT ONLY BY
THE WEST AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN GENERAL,
BUT ALSO BY ALMOST ALL POLITICAL PARTIES AND GROUPS
IN NAMIBIA.

6. THE SAG MAY INSIST ON SEEING THE TEXT OF ANY PRO-
POSED RESOLUTION, BUT IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS TO
TAKE UP THE PROPOSAL NEXT WEEK, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO
DELAY PROVIDING A TEXT UNTIL ONE OR TWO DAYS BEFORE THE

DEBATE BEGINS. AT THE TIME OF THE SECOND APPROACH TO THE SAG, IN ADDITION TO DELIVERING THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION, WE COULD ALSO EXPLAIN THE NATURE OF THE VARIOUS STATEMENTS THAT WOULD BE MADE BY THE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS ON THE SUBJECT. REFERENCES IN THESE STATEMENTS TO WESTERN NEUTRALITY ON THE LEGAL CLAIMS AND TO A NEGOTIATING PROCESS WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE IN RESTRAINING SAG REACTION.

EDMONDSON

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